

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference WIK00517	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2005/001708	International filing date (day/month/year) 18.02.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 20.02.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A47L17/00		
Applicant KOHLRUSS, Gregor		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.	
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of _____ sheets, including this cover sheet.	
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>2</u> sheets, as follows: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).	
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application	

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

PCT/EP2005/001708

Box No. 1

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-4 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-4 _____ received by this Authority on 30.12.2005 with letter
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on of 28.12.2005
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/2, 2/2 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 4	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 4	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 4	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1 Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US 2002/112301 A1 (LEE, SANG WOONG ET AL)
22 August 2002 (2002-08-22)

2 Document D1 discloses in the wording of claim 1 (the references between parentheses relate to said document; see paragraph 33; figures 1-7):

Device for cleaning a hollow container (10) which has a narrow neck at the top and a radially widened hollow cavity below said neck, said device having a handle (3) and a cleaning head (1, 2) which can be guided through the narrow neck of the hollow container (10), is provided with cleaning material (2a) and can spread open inside the hollow container, wherein the cleaning head (1, 2) comprises a substantially stiff loop of elastic material which extends in the direction of insertion and which is coated with cleaning material (2a) and, when it meets the bottom of the hollow container (10), bends outwards, thereby bearing on the bottom

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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and on the walls of the hollow container (10) and adapting to the contour of the latter, and wherein the loop is composed of a flat plastic band, in particular of silicone (see paragraph 35), which is connected to the cleaning material (2a), and the plastic band of the loop has a higher flexural strength in the areas less subjected to bending than it has in the areas subjected to greater bending (see material thinning of the plastic band at the sites where kinking is intended to take place).

The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known device for cleaning a hollow container in that the plastic band is configured in two or more layers in the areas of higher flexural strength.

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

- 2.1 The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered that of making available a device for cleaning a hollow container as disclosed in D1, but one which is better able to adapt to the container that is to be cleaned, in order thereby to permit cleaning of almost any containers, especially including containers that have a considerable bulge.

The solution to this problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)), since the available prior art neither discloses nor suggests a solution in which the plastic band is to be configured in two or

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more layers in the areas of greater flexural strength.

2.2 Claims 2-4 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.

3 Industrial applicability

The present set of claims meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(4).